



For Immediate Release
Contact Stanley Jaynes
406-265-5891, 6/15/05

Havre, MT----The Bureau of Land Management's Malta and Lewistown Field Offices have released a final environmental assessment (EA) and decision regarding the Macum Pipeline right-of-way.

The right-of-way involves existing 4" and 2" natural gas pipelines and the use of an existing road on public land in south Blaine County. The right-of-way crosses public lands within T25N R20E, sections 4 and 10, and T.26N. R.20E., sections 9, 21, 28 and 33. A portion of the right-of-way is within the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument.

The analysis in this EA led the BLM to the decision to grant the right-of-way. The decision to approve the right-of-way involves no additional disturbance and allows continued natural gas production by seven wells connected to the pipeline.

In September 1999, Macum Energy Inc. of Billings, Mont., applied for the right-of-way. Also in 1999, BLM prepared an environmental assessment for the project, and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact along with a decision to approve the right-of-way.

In March 2000, the Montana Wilderness Association and Curley Youpee filed suit challenging the right-of-way. In March 2004, Judge Molloy found the BLM failed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act in preparing the 1999 environmental assessment. Judge Molloy ordered that a new environmental assessment be prepared. BLM prepared this new environmental assessment in response to that order.

Copies of the decision and environmental assessment can be obtained from the BLM's Havre Field Station, 406-265-5891.

###